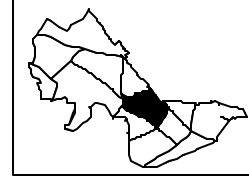


# NEIGHBORHOOD 6

## MID-CAMBRIDGE



**BOUNDARIES:** bordered by Massachusetts Avenue, Prospect Street, Hampshire Street, the Somerville border, Kirkland Street, Quincy Street, and Cambridge Street

**POPULATION:** 13,006 residents  
5,989 households

**AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME:**  
\$37,075

Neighborhood #6 is encompassed in the patrol boundaries of Car 2 (2 officers) and 6R (1 officer). It also includes walking routes 6A, 6B, and 6C.

### 2002 FIRST QUARTER REVIEW

A major **housebreak** (+13%) pattern emerged in Mid-Cambridge in late January. In the majority of the breaks along Harvard, Broadway, Dana and Ellery Streets entry was gained to apartments either by forcing a side window open. The modus operandi of the thieves is to knock on apartment doors to determine if the residents are at home. Once entry has been gained, the apartments are ransacked. Laptops are a prime target of housebreakers in this neighborhood. Temporal trends indicate weekday breaks between noon and 3PM as predominant. Arrests of career criminals from Boston and Somerville appear to have interdicted this pattern in its embryonic stage. • Both of the **street robberies** in Mid-Cambridge were in January. A student traversing home from CRLS was robbed at knifepoint. The second incident involved the mugging of a woman on Trowbridge Street late on a Friday night. • **Larceny from motor vehicles** (-19%) is still generating significant numbers in Neighborhood #6. A long standing trend of weekend night thefts from cars between 1200 and 1400 Cambridge Street, 300 to 400 Harvard Street, and the 900 block of Massachusetts Ave. • **Auto theft** continues on a downward curve in this area. During the decade of the 1980s, Mid-Cambridge averaged 150 auto thefts per year. There were only four cars stolen in Mid-Cambridge during the first three months of 2002. •

### COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS FIRST QUARTER 2001 & 2002

CRIME	1 <sup>st</sup> Q 2001	1 <sup>st</sup> Q 2002	% CHANGE
Housebreaks	23	26	+13%
Street Robbery	4	2	-50%
Auto Theft	9	4	-55%
Larceny from MVs	36	29	-19%
Malicious Destruction	17	18	+6%
Drug Arrests	4	0	-20%

## NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE AND HISTORICAL SYNOPSIS

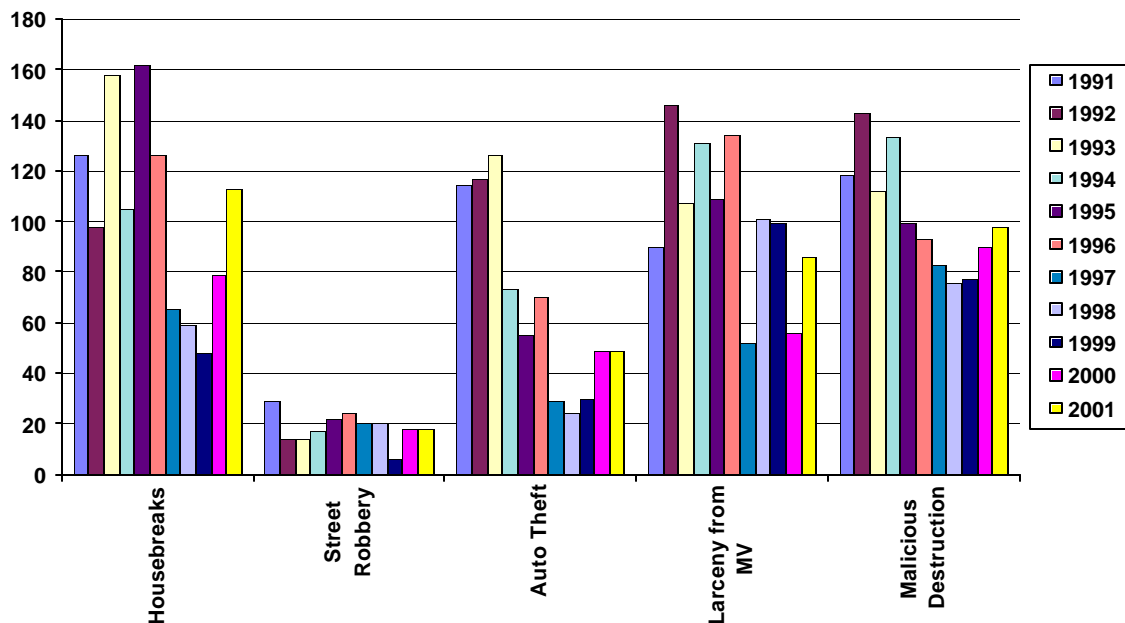
Mid-Cambridge is a busy neighborhood. In addition to the highest population of any neighborhood in Cambridge, Mid-Cambridge also has the city's largest high school (Cambridge Rindge & Latin), the Jackson Gardens residential complex, a good portion of Harvard University, and our own City Hall. It is bordered by the major thoroughways of Massachusetts Avenue, Prospect Street, and Cambridge Street, and three of the city's five busiest squares (Central, Harvard, and Inman) occupy its corners.

Because of the enormous number of people living, working, shopping, and going to school within its borders, Mid-Cambridge tends to have a higher than average rate for several crimes. *Harvard University, which has its own police department, patrols Harvard property in the western part of the neighborhood. Our statistics do not reflect most incidents that occur on Harvard University property.*

- **Residential Burglary** is naturally highest in a neighborhood with the largest number of residences. Though the rate of this crime has been cut in half since the 1980s, it still remains a serious problem. The largest clusters appear on Harvard Street between Prospect and Lee Streets, on Broadway between Lee and Ellery Streets, around the Massachusetts Avenue/Hancock Street intersection, on the lower half of Trowbridge Street, and on Lee Street. Mid-Cambridge also ranks high in **Larceny from motor vehicles** and the related crimes of **auto theft** and **malicious destruction**. The Cambridge Police Department strives to reduce both crimes through preventive patrol efforts, "Park and Walks," and priority investigation. Its 50 percent drop since the 1980s bespeaks some success.

- **Street robbery** is surprisingly low in Mid-Cambridge given its population. Most of the incidents that do occur happen on Massachusetts Avenue, on Cambridge Street, and in Inman Square.

- The high amount of pedestrian traffic on Massachusetts Avenue leads to a large number of **bicycle thefts** each year, particularly in or near Harvard Square.



ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR MID-CAMBRIDGE AREA TARGET CRIMES					
Crime	1981-1990	Rank 81-90*	1991-2000	Rank 91-00*	Rank 2001*
Housebreaks	226	1	103	1	1
Street Robbery	49	3	18	5	3
Auto Theft	147	4	70	3	5
Larceny from MVs	198	1	106	2	3
Malicious Destruction	149	1	106	5	3

\*Ranks are out of 13 neighborhoods, with 1 indicating the highest crime rate and 13 the lowest